Government provided financial assistance to Handicraft Corporation and other organisations in the State of Bihar for development of handicrafts in the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to provide special relief to craftsmen in Bihar for purpose;

(d) if so, the the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures Government propose to take for developing handicrafts in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Bihar, the Government provides financial assistance to State Handicrafts Corporations, Apex Societies and Voluntary Organisations. The amount provided to Bihar State Handicraft & Handloom Development Corporation, Patna, and to various other agencies by the Government for the development of handicrafts in the State of Bihar during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
17.75	13.54	34.03

(c) to (e) There is no proposal with the Government to provide special relief to crafstmen of Bihar. Nevertheless for the development of handicrafts in the country including the State of Bihar, various measures taken by the Government include: training, exhibition and publicity, marketing development support, design development; setting up of craft development centres, workshed-cum-housing etc. for implementation through the State corporation and non-governmental organisation.

Schemes of The Welfare of Handloom Weavers in Orissa

1348. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 68 and 372 given in Rajya Sabha on the 11th and 17th July, 1996 and State:

(a) the details of achievement and benefit under various schemes for the handloom weavers in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons for delay in releasing funds to the handloom workers under different schemes by the State Governments even after receipt of funds from the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) As per information made available by Government of Orissa, the total amounts disbursed under various Central Government Schemes for the handloom sector by Government of Orissa from funds made available by Government of india and the matching contribution from Government of Orissa, where required, during the last years are as follows:

Years	(Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	1211.89
1994.95	1754.37
1995-96	1484.81

(b) The fund releases by the State Government are dependent on observance of various procedural formalities and the progress of the ongoing schemes. Consequently, there may be a time age between release of funds by the State Governments after receipt of funds from the Centre.